

Dear Members of the Financial Services Committee,

I am writing to ask that you support the collision industry by asking that ALL bills pertaining to collision labor reimbursement rates be released from the committee with a FAVORABLE VOTE before the Joint Rule of 10 pending deadline.

I am a shop owner and have been for the past 6 years but have been in the collision industry for 26 years. I've seen and felt the struggle to survive in the collision industry on the amount that we are reimbursed for the repairs to consumers vehicles. And the struggle is real. The hourly rate paid of \$40 an hour is not enough to provide respectable hourly wages to employees, offer them benefits, pay the rent and utilities, continue to be educated on OEM repair procedures, keep equipment updated and running or even buying new equipment as procedures change and the vehicles become more complex and advanced. We, shop owners, need to keep our training and equipment advanced so that we can repair vehicles back to factory specifications and know that when we put a family back in the vehicle we just repaired it is safe for them because we've had the training and the equipment to do the job right.

So I respectfully ask that you support the HB1111 and all the other bills dealing with collision labor reimbursement rate and vote favorably.

We are professionals working on most peoples 2nd biggest investment and we need to be able to do that job with our best ability and to do that we need more than a \$10 raise over 34 years. We need it now and we are all hoping with your support we will be able to move the collision industry labor rate in Massachusetts into 2022.

Be safe out there,

Brenda Lacaire